

Impact of the Great Recession on Community-based Mental Health Organizations:
An analysis of top managers' perceptions

Helen Anne Sweeney, MS

Objective: This study looks at the extent to which the Great Recession of 2008-2009 adversely affected the financial stability of the community-based mental health infrastructure in Ohio.

Methods: Ohio community-based mental health organizations were surveyed about of adaptive strategies used to manage the consequences of the economic downturn. **Analysis:** Results were aggregated into geographical classifications of rural, mid-sized urban, and urban. **Findings:** Across all groups, respondents perceived, to varying degrees, that the Great Recession posed a threat to their organization's survival. Urban organizations were more likely to implement adaptive strategies to expand operations while rural and mid-sized urban organizations implemented strategies to enhance internal efficiencies. **Key words:** Community-based mental health organizations, economic downturn, Great Recession, adaptive strategies

Manuscript under review.